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181 Queen Victoria St. Sub., \$1.75. The entries are annotated.

Out of Print Books: Mrs. K. M. Jacobsen, of Minnesota Library Commission, writes that the Cornu and Beer List of French fiction contains many o. p. books. "Of a large order sent recently fully half were not obtainable." The number of o. p. titles in A. L. A. Catalogue steadily increases. In ordering from these, or any catalogue that is not recent, indicate which orders should be cancelled at once, if o. p., and which should be followed up and bought. Usually it would pay better to substitute more recent works.

Lending Books to Libraries: The John R. Anderson Co., 67 Fifth Ave., N. Y. City, proposes to lend books to libraries from its stock "on the general basis of five cents a month," to be retained as long as desired and then returned, or purchased at a reduced price. They do not expect to lend in this way books that would be much worn by active circulation, but rather such as are wanted on approval.

Prices: Conn, "Bacteria, Yeasts and Molds" (Ginn & Co.), listed at \$1.00, cost a recent purchaser \$1.08 net. The publishers explain that list prices of books in school department are raised when bound up for trade department, owing to larger discount allowed (1-3 instead of 1-6). The bookseller in this case allowed only 1-10 from the raised list price (\$1.20). These variations may cause trouble unless watched.

Subscription Books: The number of "series" and "sets" of all kinds offered for sale by subscription is on the increase. A good rule is to purchase none of them. Such as are worth buying may be picked up after some delay at a price much nearer their actual value. Some historical works of undoubted value are exceptions to the general rule.

German Books: The *Beiblatt* to the *Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen*, entitled "Blätter für Volksbibliotheken und Lesehallen," contains excellent brief reviews of current German books, written specially for libraries. This *Beiblatt* may be obtained separately from Otto Harrassowitz, Leipsic. Price \$1.00 per year. Bi-monthly.

Address inquiries and suggestions to any of the committee. Arthur E. Bostwick, Chairman, N. Y. P. L., 209 W. 23d; John Cotton Dana, Newark (N. J.), F. P. L.; Bernard C. Steiner, Enoch Pratt F. L., Baltimore, Md.

League of Library Commissions

A mid-winter conference of library commission workers and of those engaged in allied interests was held in Chicago January 3 and 4.

Mr. Clement W. Andrews, President of the A. L. A., appeared before the conference and outlined the tentative plans for the annual meeting at Asheville, suggesting that the League officers indicate their wishes for participation in such program. Following out his suggestions, which were in entire accord with the wishes of those present, it was determined to ask for representation on the general program, the speaker representing the League to take a topic conforming to the general plan of the session; also, to ask for two section meetings to be held at such times as not to conflict with the programs of other sections and affiliated organizations. President Andrews gave assurances that these wishes would be met. It was decided to center the papers and discussion for each of the section meetings upon some general topic of special interest to Commission workers and the library activities represented by them. The topic of the first session will treat of the various phases affecting the library budget and the apportionment of funds for the specific purposes constituting the expenditures of the average small library. The various phases of traveling library work, with special reference to the recent developments thereof, will be the topic of the second session.

Upon suggestion of the Wisconsin representatives it was decided to memorialize the A. L. A. in behalf of a plan for reliable, up-to-date library statistics covering the United States, such compilation to include likewise separate statistics for the several states. It was agreed that the library commissions would contribute to this compilation the statistics for their states, leaving to the A. L. A. the work of securing statistics from non-commission states. It was pointed out that the library statistics gathered by the National Bureau of Education were not wholly reliable, were printed triennially instead of annually, and appeared long after the closing date of the triennial periods.

Miss Hazeltine submitted a report for the League Committee on Publications. The tract

on Library Architecture, compiled by Miss Cornelia Marvin of the Oregon Commission, is nearly ready and will shortly be turned over to the A. L. A. Publishing Board. Mr. Hadley, of the Indiana Commission, has been requested to prepare a brochure on Library Publicity to contain material suitable for newspaper use. The Iowa Commission will be asked to plan reading lists for library workers, using the material printed in the 1906 file of the public libraries as a nucleus. Miss Baldwin, of the Minnesota Commission, will be requested to secure and edit the material for the second annual edition of the League Year-book. Mr. Legler, of the Wisconsin Commission, was requested to plan a series of business records, adapted for the use of small libraries, and dove-tailing with the statistical reports suggested by the Administration Committee of the A. L. A.

During the sessions of legislatures now in progress, legislation is likely to be enacted in a number of states creating library commissions. Among the states where bills for this purpose are now pending, or are proposed, may be mentioned North Dakota, Texas, Tennessee, North Carolina, Illinois and Missouri. In Texas a systematic campaign has been inaugurated and copies of a tentative bill, based on the provisions found in the state commission laws of the middle west, have been widely distributed. In North Dakota the proposed bill makes provision for traveling libraries, field organization and a legislative reference bureau. In Illinois a number of plans are under consideration, but no agreement has as yet been reached. A bill is to be introduced in the Minnesota Legislature adding to the duties of the public library commission by the establishment of a legislative reference department, based on the Wisconsin plan.

Committees of the Wisconsin Senate and assembly have asked the Wisconsin Free Library Commission to greatly increase the

scope of the legislative reference department maintained by such Commission. The force of employees has been doubled, and it is proposed by the Legislature to increase the annual appropriation from \$4,500 to \$12,500.

In Indiana, library extension work is divided between the Public Library Commission and the State Library. The governor of the state, in his message to the Legislature, has recommended merging these interests by the appointment of a library board under whom both the Library Commission and the State Library shall carry on their work without duplication or conflict. A bill to that effect is to be drawn and introduced as a result of an amicable arrangement between the interests represented.

The Pennsylvania Library Commission has amplified its work by the appointment of a field organizer.

Atlantic City

The eleventh annual meeting of the New Jersey Library Association and the Pennsylvania Library Club will be held at the Hotel Chelsea, Atlantic City, New Jersey, on March 15 and 16, 1907. As in previous years, there will be three sessions, as follows: on Friday evening, Saturday morning and Saturday evening, respectively.

Following past custom the Executive Board, the Council of the A. L. A. and the Publishing Board will hold meetings during these days. A large attendance is hoped for.

A. L. A. Booklist

The Publishing Board is receiving many requests for back numbers of the "Booklist" from those who wish to complete their files. Some of these are out of print. Will not those who have no use for the following numbers kindly send them to 34 Newbury Street, Boston, so that these demands may be met?

Vol. 1, Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 6.

Vol. 2, Nos. 3, 4 and 6.